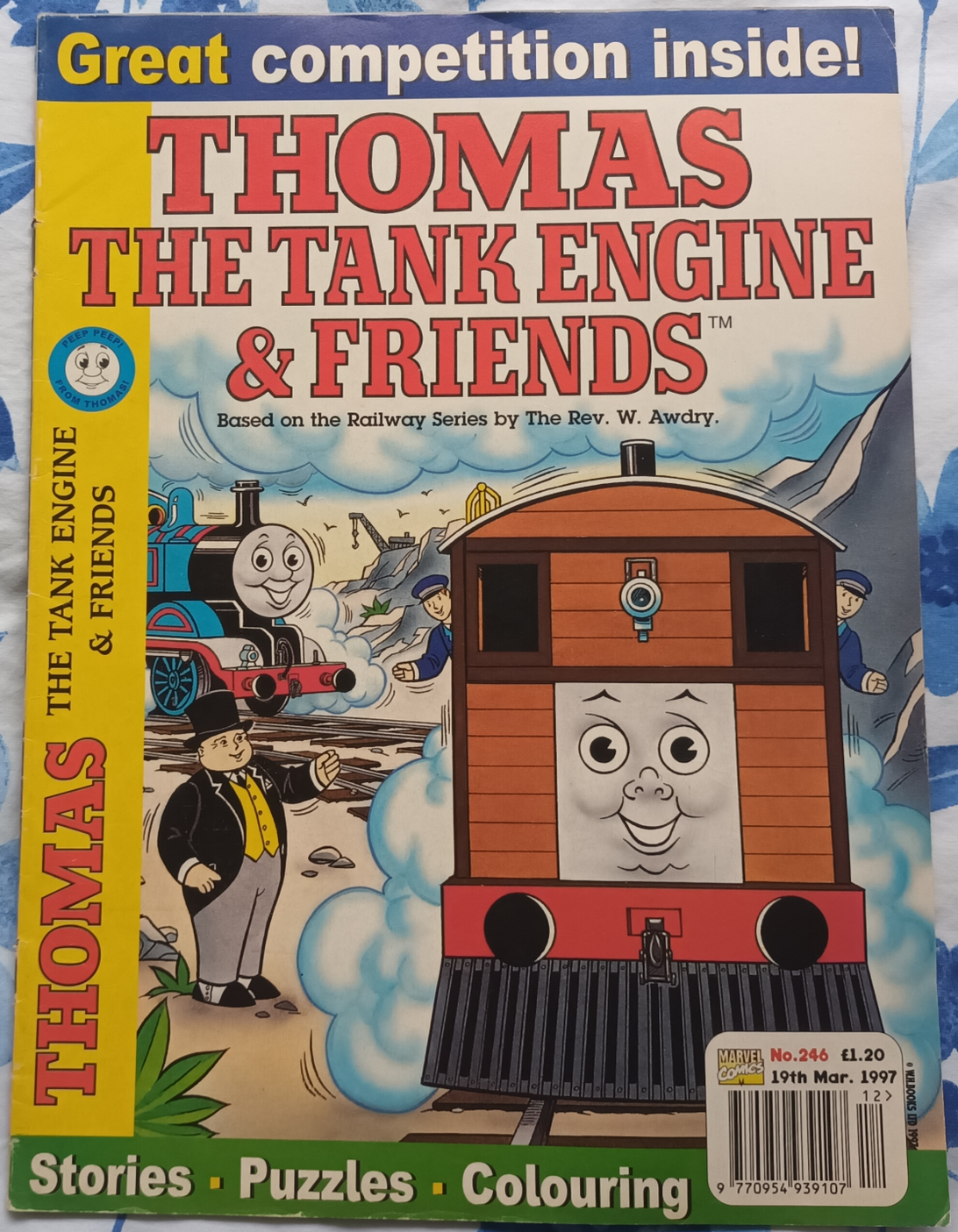
Great competition inside!
THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS™
Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.
PEEP PEEP! FROM THOMAS!
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS
MARVEL COMICS
No.246 £1.20
19th Mar. 1997
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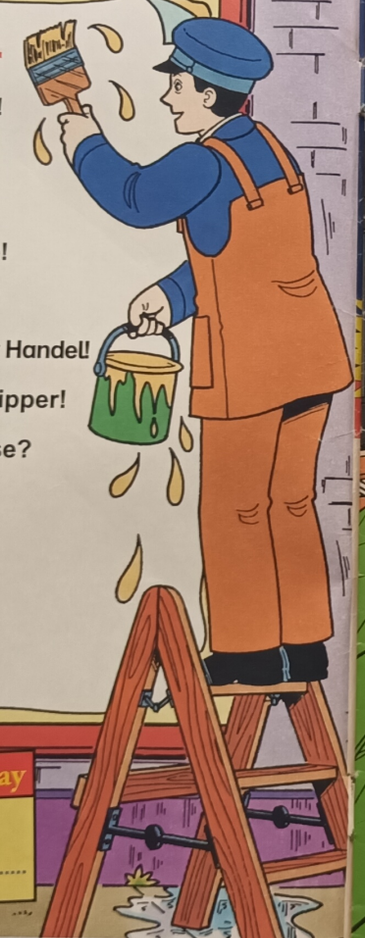
Stories · Puzzles · Colouring

Hello, everybody!



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Island of Sodor Railway

This comic belongs to .....

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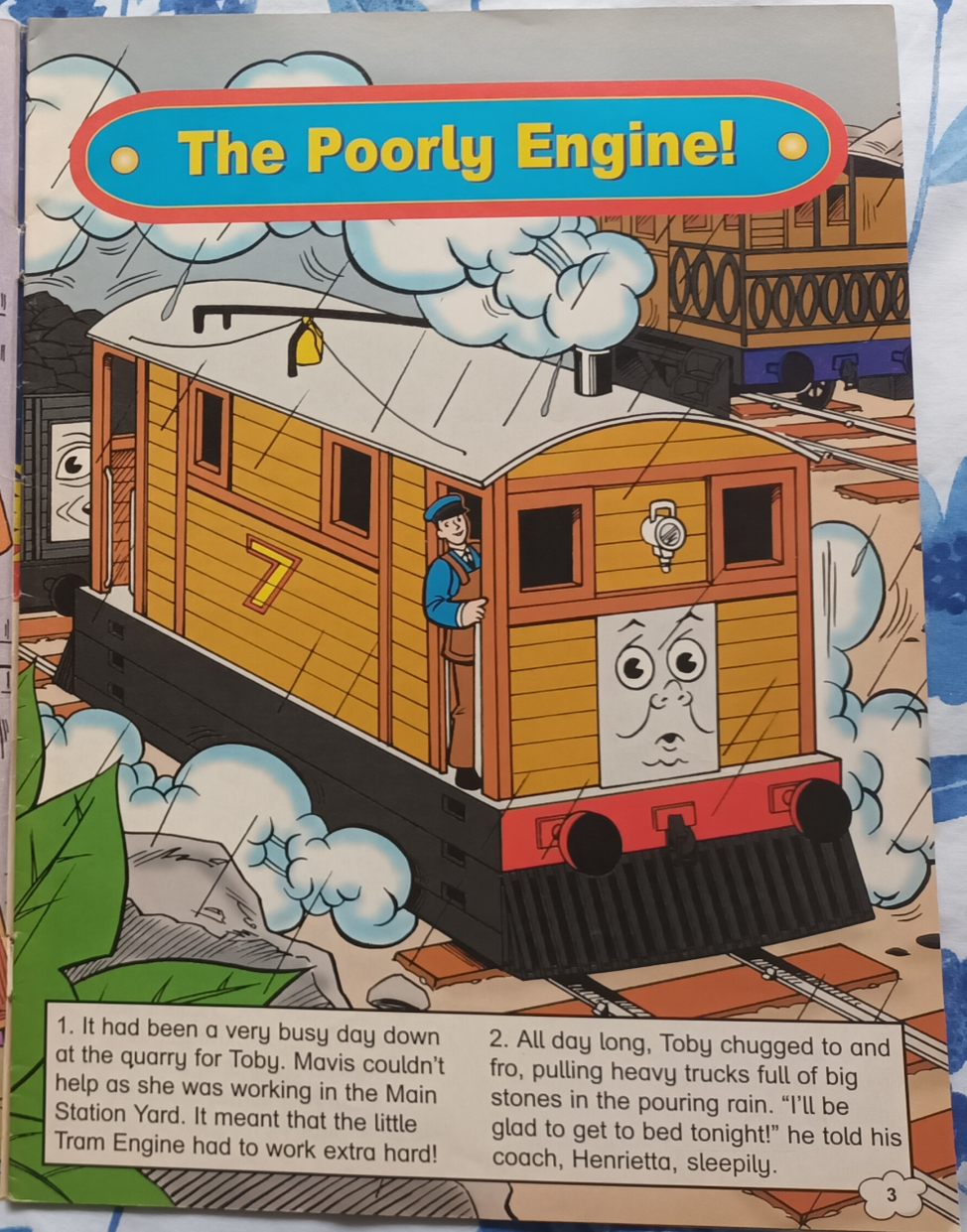
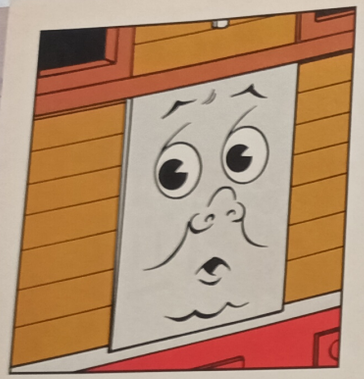
The Poorly Engine!



1. It had been a very busy day down at the quarry for Toby. Mavis couldn't help as she was working in the Main Station Yard. It meant that the little Tram Engine had to work extra hard!

2. All day long, Toby chugged to and fro, pulling heavy trucks full of big stones in the pouring rain. "I'll be glad to get to bed tonight!" he told his coach, Henrietta, sleepily.



3. But Toby didn't sleep well that night. His wheels and joints ached all over. "Oh dear I feel so stiff and sore," he groaned the next morning. Henrietta was a little concerned!

4. Toby bravely tried to carry on with his work but he was so stiff that he could hardly move. "Come on, Toby, you're going as slow as a snail today!" his driver told him.

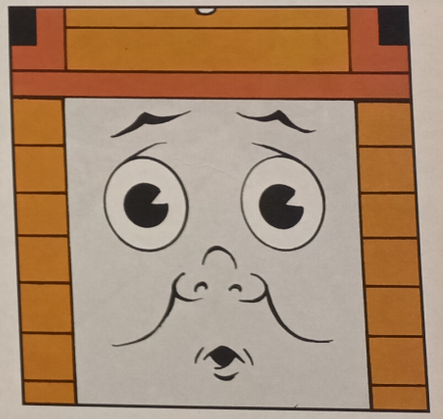
5. "What's the matter?" whispered one of the trucks as Toby crawled slowly along the track, creaking and groaning. "I guess I'm just getting too old for the job," he said, sadly.

6. Toby went slower and slower until he finally creaked to a halt. "I'm ever so sorry but I can't move anymore," he told his driver. His driver was quite worried.

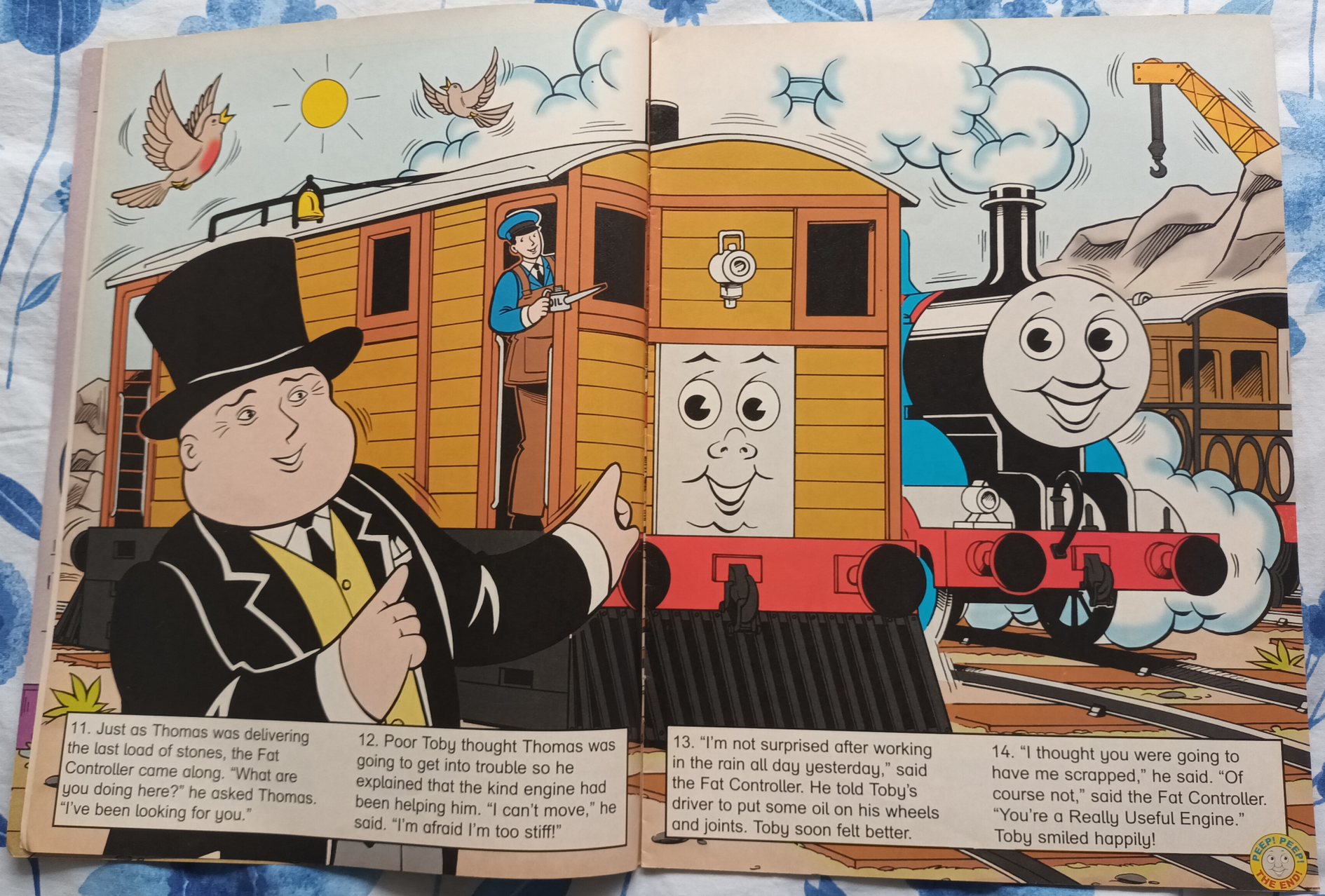
7. "I'll fetch the Fat Controller!" cried Henrietta. But Toby shook his head. "Please don't tell him. He might have me scrapped if I can't work properly," he whimpered.

8. Just then, Henrietta saw Thomas going past, on his way back to the station. She told him about Toby. "He's worried that the Fat Controller will scrap him," she explained.

9. "Poor Toby! But I know how we can help," said Thomas. The drivers agreed to his plan so Thomas kindly did the rest of Toby's work in the quarry. Toby was very grateful.



10. "Thank you," he said to Thomas. "But you can't do my work every day and the Fat Controller will find out that I'm too old for the job!" Toby looked really sad.



11. Just as Thomas was delivering the last load of stones, the Fat Controller came along. "What are you doing here?" he asked Thomas. "I've been looking for you."

12. Poor Toby thought Thomas was going to get into trouble so he explained that the kind engine had been helping him. "I can't move," he said. "I'm afraid I'm too stiff!"

13. "I'm not surprised after working in the rain all day yesterday," said the Fat Controller. He told Toby's driver to put some oil on his wheels and joints. Toby soon felt better.

14. "I thought you were going to have me scrapped," he said. "Of course not," said the Fat Controller. "You're a Really Useful Engine." Toby smiled happily!

PEEP! PEEP! THE END!

BOUNCY Thomas Prizes!

10 readers will each receive a Thomas Bop Bag* and an inflatable Thomas armchair*. Bop till you drop and laze for days with these air raising prizes!

To be a lucky winner, just tell us:
Who is the engine named below?

SIVAM

Send your answer, along with your name and adress, to: Thomas /246 competition, Heart Fashions and Designs, 37a High Street, Walsall Wood, W Midlands, WS9 9LR.

All entries must be received by 27th March 1997.

*'Bop Bag' is not suitable for children under 3 yrs.
*Inflatable chair suitable for children 18 months-4yrs.

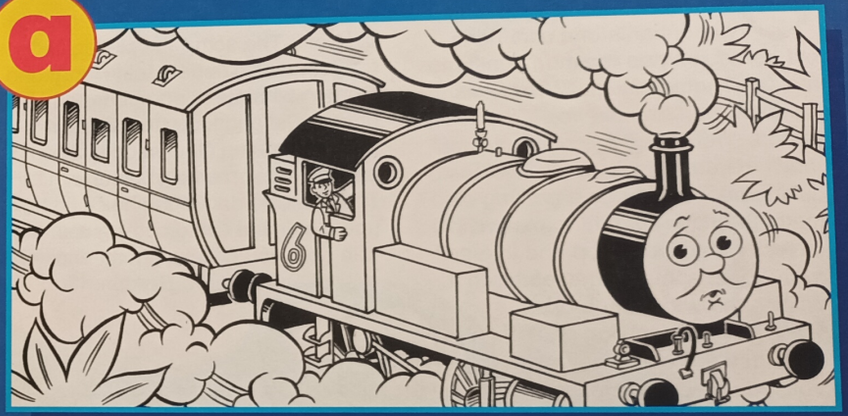
Heart Fashions and Designs stock over 150 Thomas products in their mail order catalogue. For your FREE copy, telephone 01543 377182, quoting reference 246 or write to them at the competition address above.

This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of participating companies. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final, and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Spot the difference!

These two pictures look the same, but there are some tiny differences between them! Can you spot the 6 changes? When you have found them all, colour in the pictures!

a



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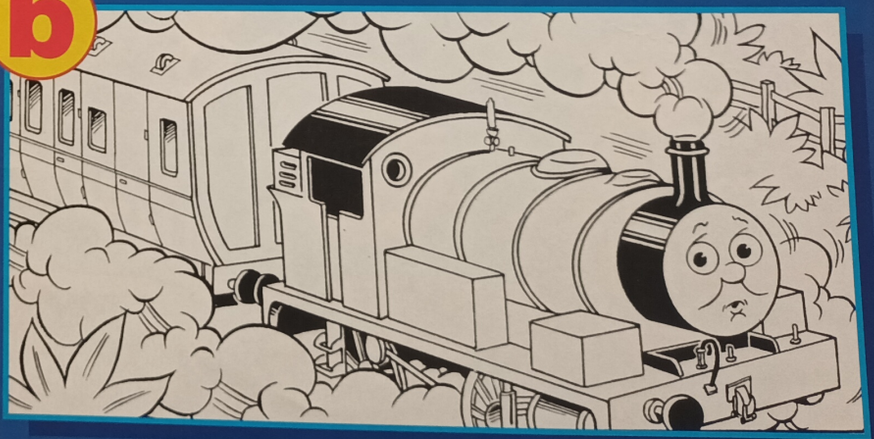


Answers: Carriage window - Driver - Number - Porthole - Lamp - Buffer.

Any Old Iron?

One day, at a level crossing, Thomas saw a scrap-dealer with a horse and cart. "Any old iron?" shouted the man, loudly, making Thomas jump. "What does he mean by, 'Any old iron?'" he puffed. "He scared me shouting like that!" "He's a scrap-dealer, Thomas, asking people if they've got any old metal they don't want," explained his driver. "He collects it up and takes it away to do something useful with it. When I threw out my broken oven, he got it working again!"

That afternoon, Thomas crossed paths with Henry. "Any old iron?" he shouted, loudly, just like the scrap-man, making the big green engine jump! "Grow up Thomas!" whistled Henry.

Later, Thomas did the same thing to Gordon and he chuckled to himself. Gordon didn't find it very funny. "I'm the most important engine on the railway, I'll never be scrapped!" he snorted.

Later on that day, Thomas was back at the engine shed. He carried on joking with the older engines. "Any old iron? The scrap-man is looking for you two!" Then he told Henry and Gordon what he'd learned from his driver. "Did you know that the scrap-man collects up old iron and takes it away to do something useful with it?" Thomas asked. "Maybe he could take you away and do something useful with you, you cheeky young engine!" muttered Gordon.

Suddenly, who should arrive in the yard, but the scrap-man! "Any old iron?" he yelled, from the top of his voice. All the engines shuddered and fell silent.

The Fat Controller heard the scrap-man and came into the yard. He found a group of very nervous-looking engines!

When he looked at Thomas, the poor little tank engine looked horrified! "I want you to follow me into the goods yard!" he ordered. Henry started to smile - now the joke was on Thomas! "This will teach you to make fun of us." he whistled, as Thomas moved away.

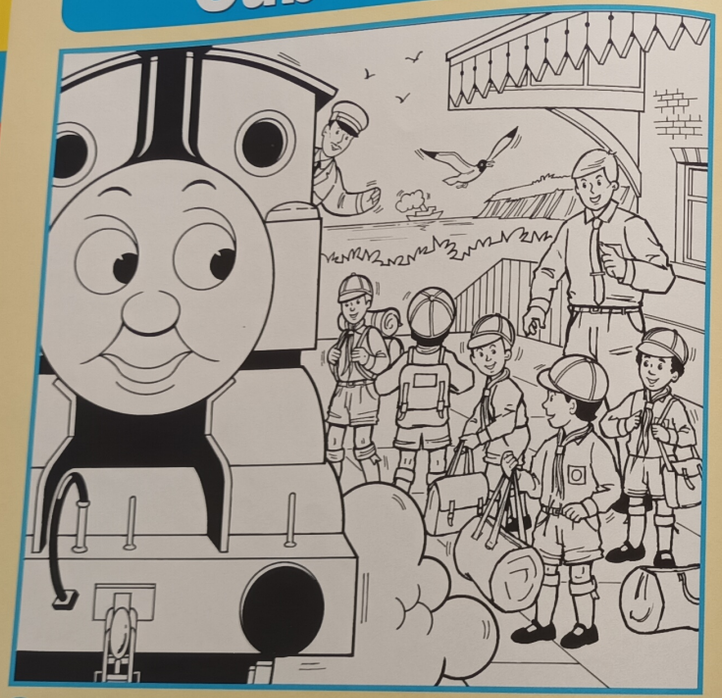
But once they were in the goods yard, the Fat Controller put an end to Thomas' worst fears. "Thomas, I want you to bring that old truck full of workshop scrap up from the siding, so we can load up the scrap-man's cart," he instructed. "Phew!" whistled Thomas, in relief. "Yes, Sir, anything you say, Sir!" he puffed.

The Fat Controller looked amused. "You silly engine. You thought he'd come for you, didn't you?" he said. "No, I didn't," said Thomas, boldly. "I thought he'd come for Gordon and Henry. They're the only old iron around here!" the Fat Controller grinned, "Now, now, Thomas, I think it's time we got on with some work!"

THE END

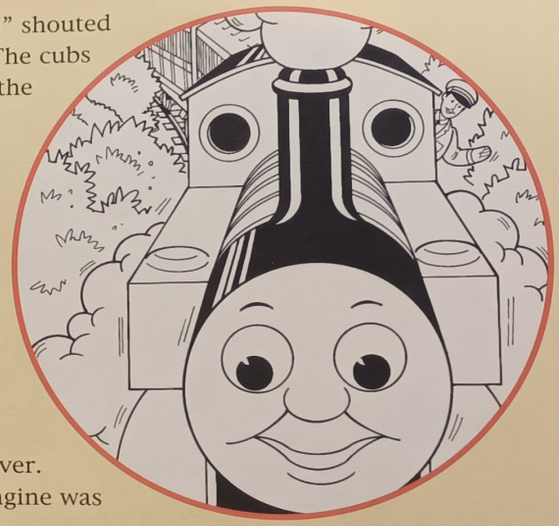
A read & colour story

Cub Camp!



1 "I've got a special job for you today Thomas!" said the Fat Controller, one morning. "I need you to go to the Harbour station to pick up a group of cub scouts." Thomas wanted to know more, so the Fat Controller explained that the cubs were coming to the Island for their annual camp. Thomas couldn't wait to see them! He took Annie and Clarabel to the station. "Don't they look smart in their cub uniforms!" Thomas whistled, as he saw the little cubs.

2 "All aboard!" shouted the cub leader. The cubs all climbed into the carriages and Thomas set off. They headed for a station in the country so the cubs could set up camp nearby. Thomas steamed along happily. "Cubs do a good turn everyday," explained his driver. The little tank engine was very impressed.



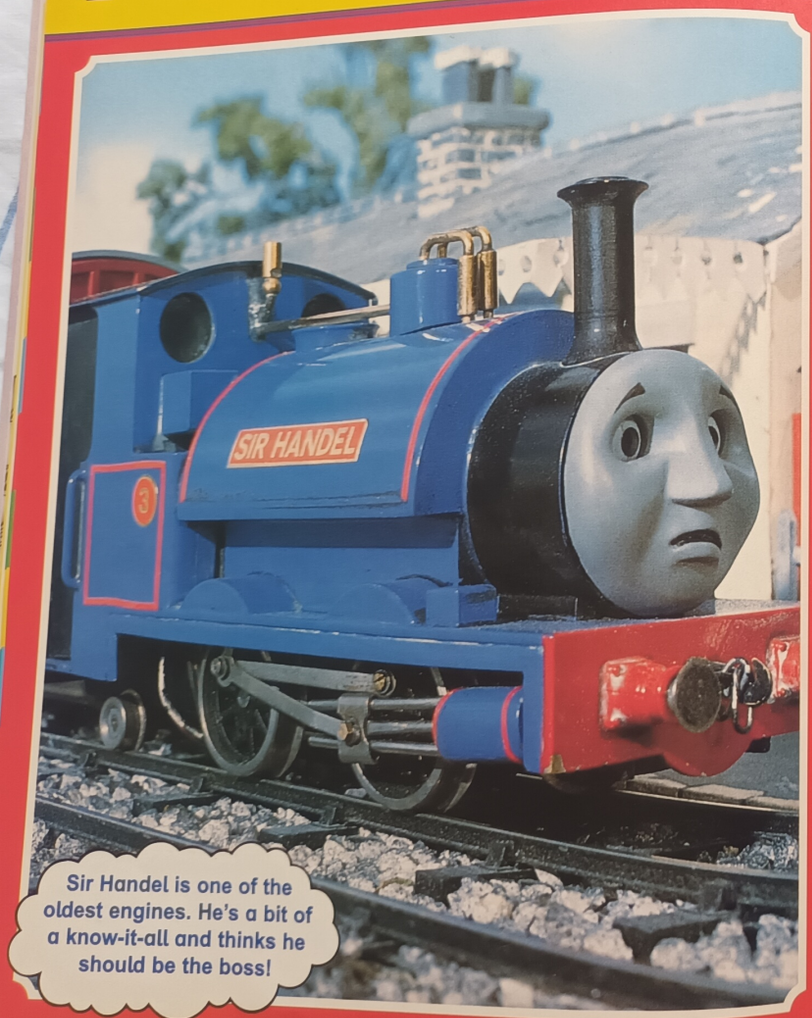
3 At the country station, the cubs followed their leaders into a nearby field. After putting up their tents, they began to sing songs. Thomas passed the camp often and always gave a loud whistle. The cubs waved back. Thomas enjoyed seeing his new friends.

4 One afternoon, a few miles from the camp, Thomas saw smoke coming from behind a hedge. "Oh, look," he puffed, "Smoke signals! Maybe someone's in trouble!" Thomas' driver stopped to investigate. It was the cubs! "We're lost!" exclaimed one of them. "We were doing a paper trail exercise but the trail has disappeared," added the leader. "At least, the smoke signal worked!" "You can thank Thomas for spotting the smoke," said the driver.

5 "Good old Thomas!" shouted the cubs."Just doing a good turn," Thomas grinned. When they were passing the camp, Thomas gave a loud "Peep!" The cubs saw that Thomas had found their lost friends. Later, Thomas was to take the cubs to the Harbour station. But before the cubs boarded the train, they had something to do. "We're here to give Thomas a wash and polish," one explained. "As one good turn deserves another!" Thomas was very pleased!

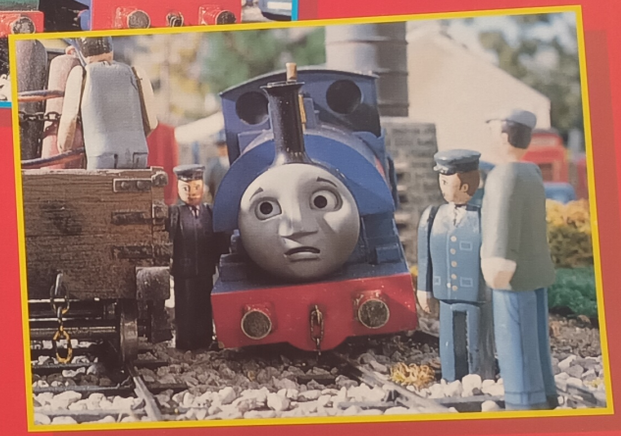
The end

All about Sir Handel!



Sir Handel is one of the oldest engines. He's a bit of a know-it-all and thinks he should be the boss!

Both Sir Handel and Peter Sam were taught how to work really hard by Duke, the oldest engine.



Sometimes Sir Handel can be grumpy but he always gets on with his work!

Win a model Sir Handel!

5 lucky winners will win a splendid model of Sir Handel from the ERTL engine range! Just send a postcard, with your name, age and address to: Thomas/246 model competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ. Closing date: March 26th 1997. The first five names out of our postbag after the closing date will win their very own Sir Handel!

"Aye Aye Skipper!"

Stephen and Bridget enjoyed travelling on the Fat Controller's engines. But, one morning, Lady Hatt took them for a very different ride. They were going on a paddle-steamer!

They arrived at the harbour. "Look! This ship has a smoky funnel, just like an engine!" cried Stephen, as they stepped aboard with the other passengers. The skipper was wearing a smart uniform and a peaked cap. He was a friend of Lady Hatt and the Fat Controller. He came to meet Stephen and Bridget.

As a very special treat, the skipper invited them to have a look in the wheelhouse. There, they saw the big wooden wheel which he used to steer the boat.

Soon everyone was aboard. "Raise the gangplank," the skipper called to one of his crew. "Aye, aye, Skipper!" he replied. Stephen and Bridget were puzzled. "What does 'aye, aye' mean, Grandma?" they asked Lady Hatt, as the boat steamed out to sea. "Oh, it just means 'yes,'" explained Lady Hatt. "Sailors always say that instead."

During the voyage, around the Island of Sodor's coast, the children heard the Skipper busily giving other orders to his crew. The reply was always the same: "Aye, aye!" they'd say.

At last, the trip came to an end. Lady Hatt and her grandchildren thanked the skipper for a wonderful time. "It must be very exciting to be the skipper of this boat!" Stephen and Bridget agreed.

Later, back at their grandparents' house, they told the Fat Controller all about their sea trip. That night, the children even dreamt about it.

Next day, they went to see the engines at the Main Station with the Fat Controller. "Would you like a ride on one?" he asked them. "Yes, please!" cried the children. "Duck will be taking a passenger train on his branch line by the sea," explained the Fat Controller. "You can go with him." "I hope we see the paddle-

steamer and the skipper again," said Stephen.

Next moment, who should arrive at the Main Station but the skipper, himself. Bertie the Bus had brought him. "Lady Hatt told me I'd find Stephen and Bridget here," he told the Fat Controller. "The paddle steamer is not due to sail yet so I've brought them something each to keep."

The children were delighted when the skipper took two tee-shirts out of a bag he was carrying. They had a picture of the paddle-steamer printed on the front. "These are for you to help you remember your trip," he told them. "Wow! Thanks!" they cried, excitedly. "We'll never forget it!" "Now I must get back to my boat," said the skipper.

The Fat Controller told him he could travel with Stephen and Bridget aboard Duck's train. "Would you show me which engine Duck is?" asked the skipper. "Yes, of course," said Stephen. "Don't you mean 'aye, aye, Skipper!'?" laughed Bridget.

THE END

True or false!

You have just read about Stephen and Bridget's exciting adventure. Can you remember what happened? Answer the 5 questions below by putting a tick in the correct box.

		True	False
	Stephen and Bridget went on a paddle steamer.	☐	☐
	A Chimney sweep was in charge of the boat.	☐	☐
	Bertie brought the Skipper to the Main Station.	☐	☐
	The Skipper had brought two cuddly bears for the children.	☐	☐
	The children showed the Skipper who Duck was.	☐	☐

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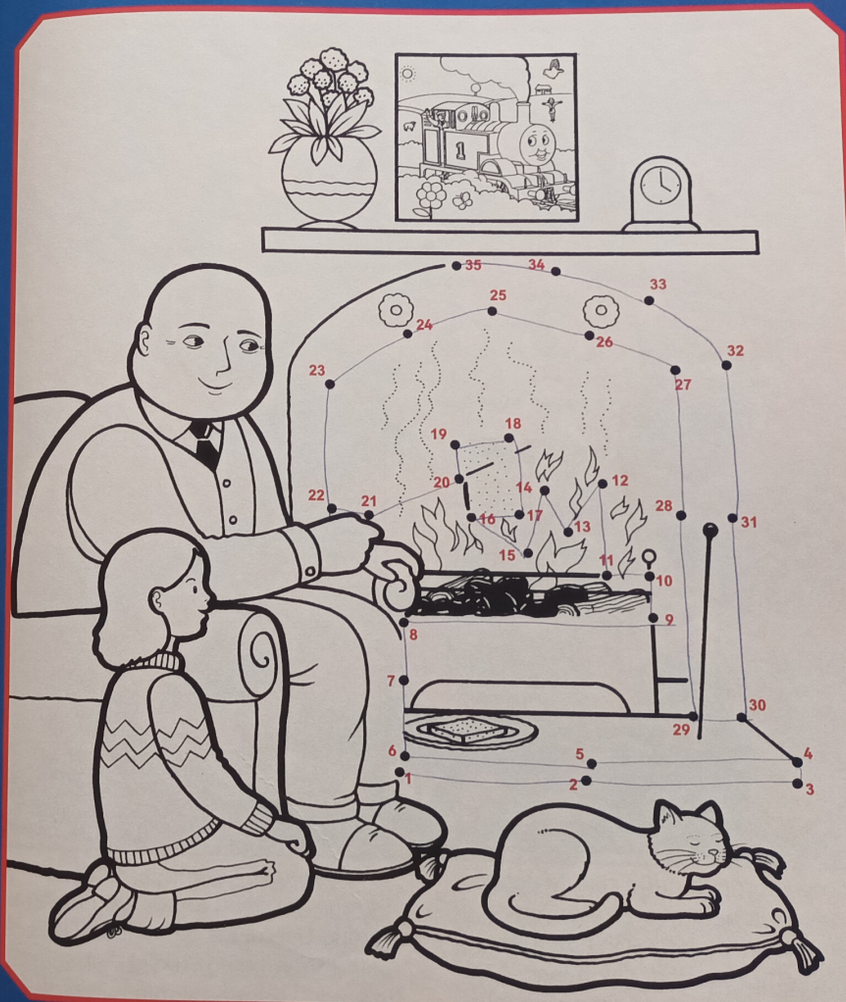
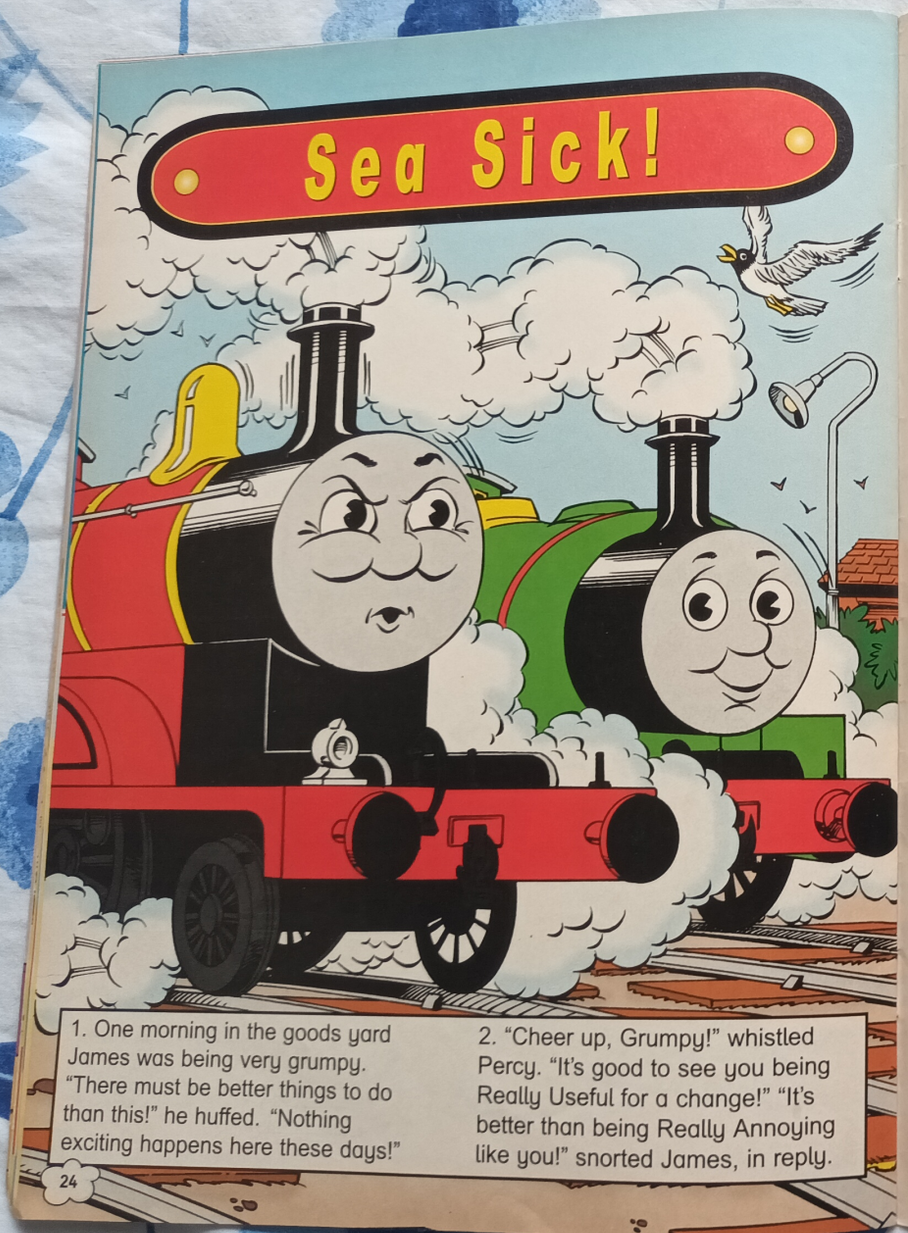
Dot to dot!

What are they having for tea? Join the dots so you see!



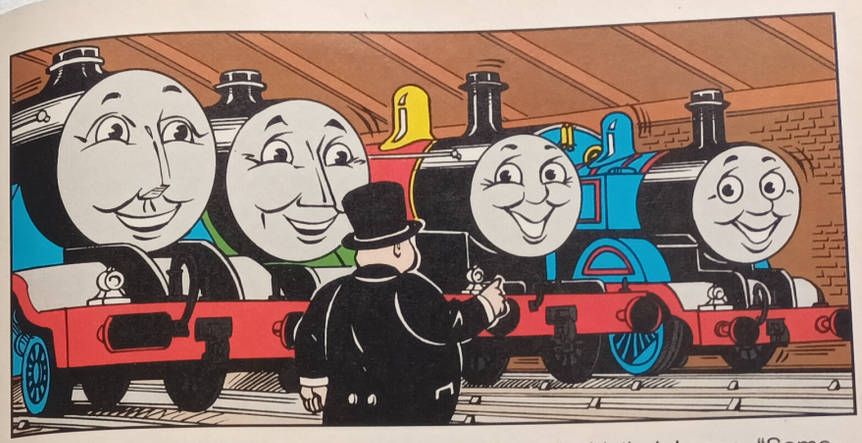
When you have finished colour this page!

Sea Sick!



1. One morning in the goods yard James was being very grumpy. "There must be better things to do than this!" he huffed. "Nothing exciting happens here these days!"

2. "Cheer up, Grumpy!" whistled Percy. "It's good to see you being Really Useful for a change!" "It's better than being Really Annoying like you!" snorted James, in reply.



3. The next day, the Fat Controller had special news for James. "You're going to the Mainland to help on one of the big railways while one of their engines is being repaired."

4. "Phew!" whistled James. "Some excitement at last! I'm afraid you engines will have to do without me for a while." "Good luck James!" whistled his friends. "Work hard!"

5. That afternoon, his adventure started. "I wish the wind would stop blowing!" wailed James, as the big crane lifted him through the air. His driver smiled, "Keep calm James!"

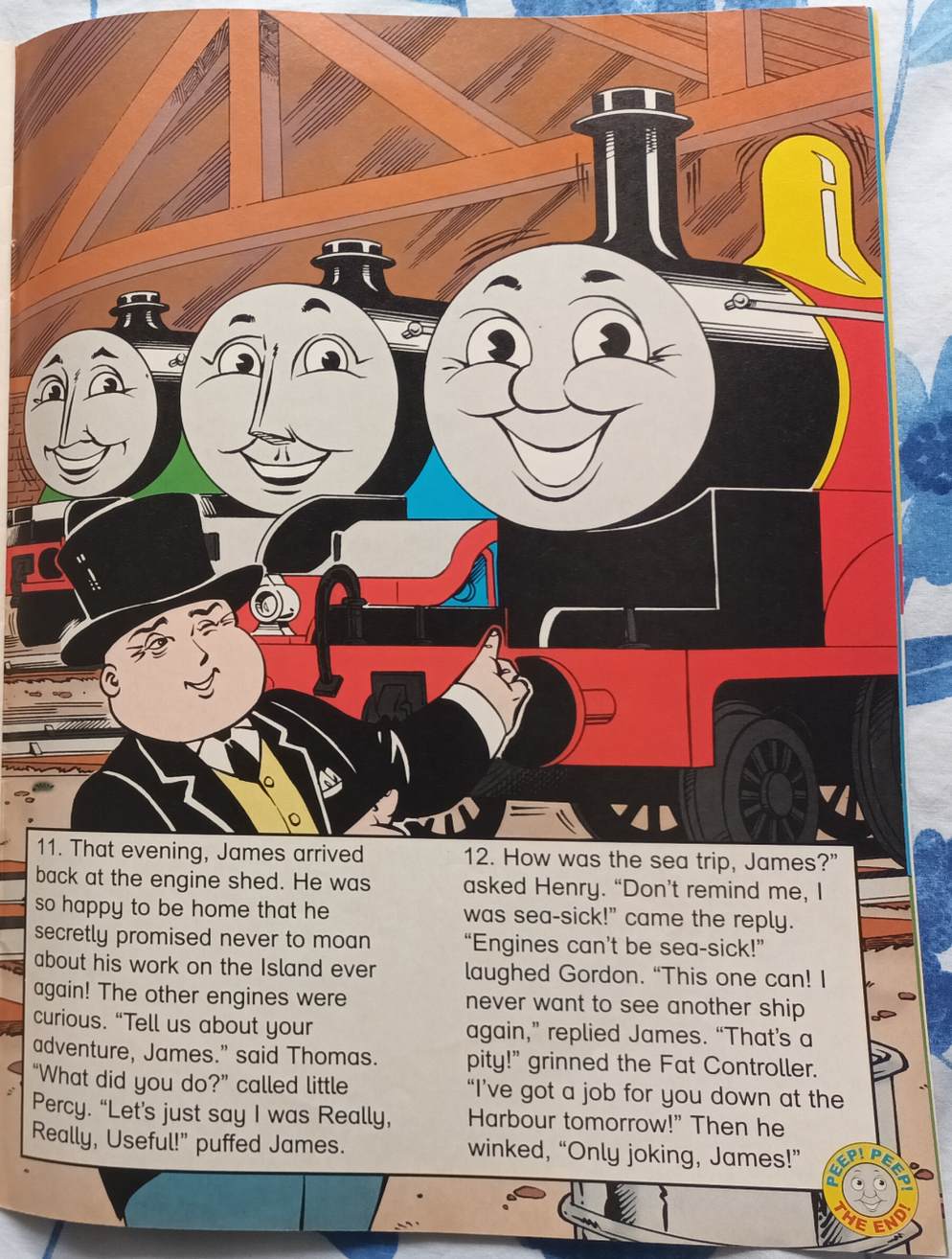
6. Out at sea, big waves rocked the ship and James made some strange sounds! "Errr eerrgh err!" he whined. "What funny noises! You're sea-sick, James!" called his driver.

7. James was very happy to reach the Mainland. "Let's get to work!" he whistled. "I feel ready for anything now!" His driver was pleased. "That's the spirit, James!" he said.

8. But poor James was out of luck. "I hope you're ready for trucks then, James!" said his driver. "There's a lot of work for you on the goods lines." James let out a big HISSS!

9. So James worked his buffers off for a month. Soon, it was time to go home. "I've never been so Useful in my life!" he puffed. "The others will be impressed!" grinned his driver.

10. On board the ship once more, James felt very ill. "Errr, errgh, errr!" he wailed. He pulled worried faces all the way back. Even the seagulls seemed to be laughing at him!



11. That evening, James arrived back at the engine shed. He was so happy to be home that he secretly promised never to moan about his work on the Island ever again! The other engines were curious. "Tell us about your adventure, James." said Thomas. "What did you do?" called little Percy. "Let's just say I was Really, Really, Useful!" puffed James.

12. How was the sea trip, James?" asked Henry. "Don't remind me, I was sea-sick!" came the reply. "Engines can't be sea-sick!" laughed Gordon. "This one can! I never want to see another ship again," replied James. "That's a pity!" grinned the Fat Controller. "I've got a job for you down at the Harbour tomorrow!" Then he winked, "Only joking, James!"

The mail train!

Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to Mail Train, Thomas, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ.

Star Letter

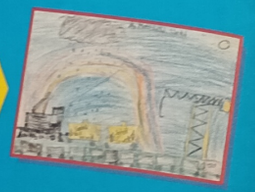
Dear Fat Controller,
Do you have lots of fun running your railway?

From Thomas Hodges, aged 4.

Oh yes! I can't think of anything that would suit me more! Sometimes the engines can be a little naughty or grumpy but I keep them on their toes and make sure they all work hard but have fun too, just like me!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win a splendid Thomas carry case!

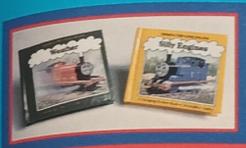
Thanks to Matthew Webb, aged 5, for this splendid rainbow, railway scene!



Prize Poem!

A big thank you to Tom Hebdidge, aged 3, for this super poem!

George loves to flatten things,
He's always in a mood.
"Railways are no good" he says,
And other things as rude!



Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special Thomas Changing Picture Book.

Peep! Peep! Thomas is having fun in the countryside by Alex Handford, aged 5!

What a bright and happy Gordon by Joseph Rogers, aged 6!

Percy's Jokes

Have you got a favourite joke or funny story? Why not send it to Percy?

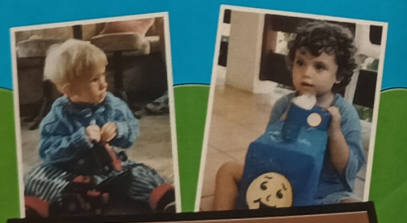
Why are hairdressers good drivers?
Because they know all the short cuts!
Paul Edgeworth, aged 5.

What did the sea say to the sand?
Nothing, he just waved!
Stuart Pitcher, aged 6.

Why did the man with one hand cross the road?
To get to the 'Second Hand' Shop!
Phillip Wells, aged 5.

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to..
Ricky Woodbridge, aged 7,
Nicholas Walker, aged 2,
Victoria Cullen, aged 4 &
Benjamin Reddings, aged 3.

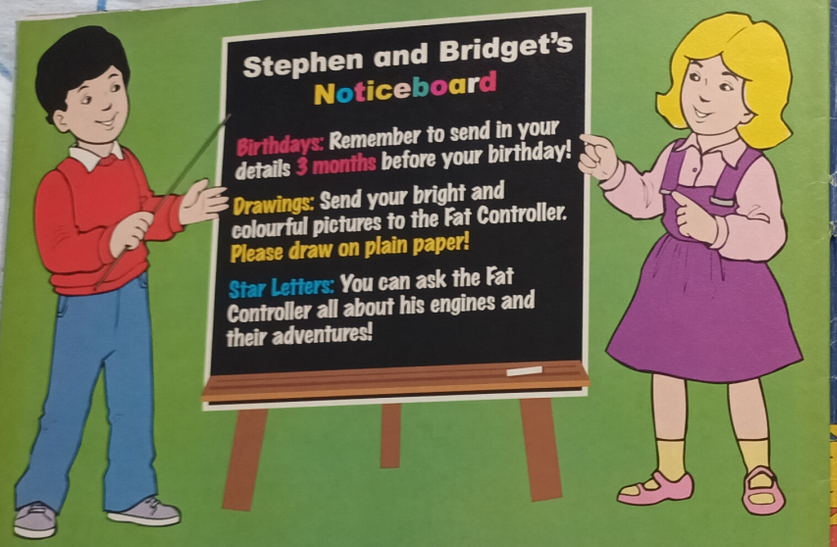


Thomas Wilkinson, aged 3.

Benjamin Howlett, aged 3.

Michael Perry, aged 4.

Connor Hunter, aged 3.


Stephen and Bridget's
Noticeboard
Birthdays: Remember to send in your details 3 months before your birthday!
Drawings: Send your bright and colourful pictures to the Fat Controller. Please draw on plain paper!
Star Letters: You can ask the Fat Controller all about his engines and their adventures!

New
TIME FOR A PARTY!
NEW ASL THOMAS LINES
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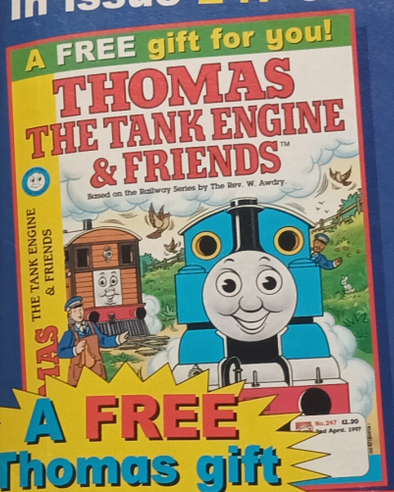
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